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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/627,206	07/24/2003	Harry Israel Ringermacher	120631-1	4236
6147	7590	05/17/2005	EXAMINER	
GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY GLOBAL RESEARCH PATENT DOCKET RM. BLDG. K1-4A59 NISKAYUNA, NY 12309			VERBITSKY, GAIL KAPLAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2859	

DATE MAILED: 05/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/627,206

Applicant(s)

RINGERMACHER ET AL.

Examiner

Gail Verbitsky

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 March 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24, 28 and 29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 and 28-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03/24/2005
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 15-20 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zalameda et al. (U.S. 20030193987) [hereinafter Zalameda] in view of Erhardt (U.S. 20020180384/ U.S. 6583588)

Zalameda discloses in Fig. 1 a thermography IR imaging device comprising a flash lamp 54a, 54b heating an object, an IR camera 55 configured to capture plurality of images/ frames, a shutter electronics (actively quenching means) 56 configured to shut the flash lamps and thus, to actively cool them.

Although it is known in the art that any device should have an initial control to initiate an action (i.e., power on/ off), Zalameda does not explicitly teach a control signal T2, in combination with the remaining limitations of claims 15-20 and 24.

Erhardt discloses a device/ timing controller/ timing generator / clock (logic level signals) comprising a first timer and a second timer, the first timer T_{oper} (T0) controlling an operating mode of a (illuminating) lamp, and the second timer T_{cool} (T2) controlling a cooling mode of the lamp. There is a power switching means/ device 54 for providing power, and thus, inherently, voltage/ current to the lamp during the operating mode and removing power from the lamp during cooling mode (paragraph [0029]). Power is applied to the lamp at a block 22 and the first timer of the timing controller is initialized at a block 24 and the lamp is at its operating mode. The switching device 54 is controlled by a control circuit (switch drive circuit) 52 and can be a triac, relay or other switching device (paragraph [0027]) supplying a lamp trigger (on/ off) signal (T1).

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to add a control device, as taught by Erchardt, to the device disclosed by Zalameda, so as to have a cyclic heating and cooling control of the illuminating means (lamp), so as to prevent the lamp overheating, as very well known in the art.

3. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zalameda and Erchardt as applied to claims 15-20 and 24 above, and further in view of Sohn (U.S. 6127666)

Zalameda and Erchardt disclose the device as stated above in paragraph 2. They do not explicitly teach that the heating/ illuminating lamp is a halogen lamp.

Sohn teaches that a halogen lamp needs to be cooled.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the flash lamp disclosed by Zalameda and Erchardt with a halogen lamp, as taught by Sohn, because both of them are alternate types of heating/ illuminating lamps which will perform the same function, of illuminating/ heating the object whose image is to be taken, if one is replaced with the other.

4. Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zalameda and Erchardt as applied to claims 15-20 and 24 above, and further in view of Kinney et al. (U.S. 6630996) [hereinafter Kinney]

Zalameda and Erchardt disclose the device as stated above in paragraph 2. They do not explicitly teach that the lamp is an arc lamp.

Kinney teaches that an arc lamp needs to be cooled.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the flash lamp disclosed by Zalameda and Erchardt with an arc lamp, as taught by Kinney, because both of them are alternate types of heating/ illuminating lamps which will perform the same function, of illuminating/ heating the object whose image is to be taken, if one is replaced with the other.

5. Claims 15, 24 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zalameda in view of Narita (U.S. 6759793).

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Zalameda discloses in Fig. 1 a thermography IR imaging device comprising a flash lamp 54a, 54b heating an object, an IR camera 55 configured to capture plurality of images/ frames, a shutter electronics (actively quenching means) 56 configured to shut the flash lamps and thus, to actively cool them.

Although it is known in the art that any device should have an initial control to initiate action, Zalameda does not explicitly teach a control signal T2, in combination with the remaining limitations of claims 15, 24 and 29.

Narita teaches in Fig. 2 to cool an (mercury/ arc, col. 4, line 60) illuminating lamp by actively quenching the lamp by providing cooling means 50, inherently, controlled by a cooling (quench) control signal (T2) provided by means 60, or providing current to the lamp by means 60 (T0) which has a starter (lamp trigger signal T1) by which a high voltage pulse is applied to operate the lamp and thus, the lamp is initiated (T2) (col. 5, lines 23-27).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the flash lamp disclosed by Zalameda and Erchardt with an arc lamp, as taught by Narita, because both of them are alternate types of heating lamps which will perform the same function, of illuminating/ heating the object whose image is to be taken, if one is replaced with the other.

6. Claims 21-22 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zalameda and Erchardt as applied to claims 15-20 and 24 above, and further in view of INTEGRATED GATE-COMMUTATED THYRISTORS. Article by Carroll et al. [hereinafter Article]

Zalameda and Erchardt disclose the device as stated above in paragraph 2.

They do not explicitly teach that the switch is a power semiconductor switch/ an insulated gate bipolar transistor.

Article teaches to use a power semiconductor switch such as IGCT or MOSFET or IGBT since they have very good performance in power and temperature cycling.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to replace the switching device disclosed by Zalameda and Erchardt with a switching device, as taught by Article, because power semiconductors known as IGCT have high speed and reliability, as already suggested by Article, and thus high performance ensuring a high accuracy of cooling the illuminating device.

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Response to arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 15-24, 28-29 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

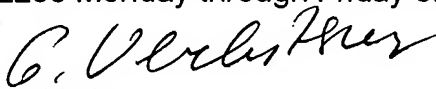
With respect to "high voltage", "high current" switch: The terms the "high voltage", "high current" in claims 17, 22 are relative terms, which renders the claim indefinite. The term "high voltage", "high current" are not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art cited in the PTO-892 and not mentioned above disclose related devices and methods.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to the Examiner Verbitsky who can be reached at (571) 272-2253 Monday through Friday 8:00 to 4:00 ET.

GKV


Gail Verbitsky
Primary Patent Examiner, TC 2800

May 10, 2005